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What is the Health Level 7?

Health Level Seven (HL7) is a not-for-profit, ANSI-accredited standards organization. The focus of HL7 work is in supplying a structure for the development and electronic distribution of health information that is used in clinical practice. <link <https://www.hl7.org/about/index.cfm>>

HL7 learned long ago that while data can be exchanged between systems, its usefulness is compromised unless there is a shared, well defined, and unambiguous knowledge of the meaning of the data transferred. Since much of the data being transferred is coded, either by HL7 or other organizations, HL7 began a focused effort via the formation of the Vocabulary Technical Committee to organize and maintain vocabulary terms used in its messages.

This group is working to provide an organization and repository for maintaining a coded vocabulary that, when used in conjunction with HL7 and related standards, will enable the exchange of clinical data and information so that sending and receiving systems have a shared, well defined, and unambiguous knowledge of the meaning of the data transferred. The purpose of the exchange of clinical data includes, but is not limited to: provision of clinical care, support of clinical and administrative research, execution of automated transaction oriented decision logic (medical logic modules), support of outcomes research, support of clinical trials, and to support data reporting to government and other authorized third parties. To achieve this goal, the Vocabulary Technical Committee will work cooperatively with all other groups that have an interest in coded vocabularies used in clinical computing. Some of the groups will include: standards development organizations, creators and maintainers of vocabularies, government agencies and regulatory bodies, clinical professional specialty groups, vocabulary content providers, and vocabulary tool vendors.

What is the Health Level 7 Reference Information Model? The HL7 Reference Information Model (RIM) is An object model created as part of the Version 3 methodology, the RIM is a large, pictorial representation of the HL7 clinical data (domains) and identifies the life cycle that a message or groups of related messages will carry. It is a shared model between all domains and, as such, is the model from which all domains create their messages. The RIM is an ANSI approved standard.

HL7 Watch Blog

Barry Smith, *(Julian Park Distinguished Professor and Research Scientist in the New York State Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics and Life Sciences of the University at Buffalo (New York, USA) and principal scientist of the National Center for Biomedical Ontology and a coordinating editor of the Open Biomedical Ontologies (OBO) Foundry,*

This blog entry discusses Alan Rector's paper.

HL7 and EVS

NCI downloads the HL7 RIM content from the HL7 downloads page [<http://www.hl7.org/implement/standards/rim.cfm>](http://www.hl7.org/implement/standards/rim.cfm) and loads it into LexBIG using the custom RIM loader.

Discuss Health Level 7 Terminology

Please go to the [Health Level 7 Discussion](#) page to leave comments regarding the Health Level 7 Terminology.

Examples of comments may include:

- How you are using this terminology
- Why you decided to use (or not use) this terminology
- Strengths or limitations of the terminology
- Comparisons to other similar terminologies

Links

[HL7 FAQ](#)

[Health Level 7 Home Page](#)

[caBIG® Efforts in HL7](#)